



NATURAL HERITAGE of PORTLAW

Oidhreacht Nádurtha Phort Lách



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Portlaw is situated on the River Clodiagh, a tributary of the River Suir. Sources differ as to the origin of the name Portlaw, which derives from the Irish version, Port Lách or Port Chlád-hach. Some references state that the name is Port Lách (Lághach), meaning “the bank, or landing place of the hill”. Canon Patrick Power in his book ‘The Placenames of Decies’ refers to Portlaw as “Port Chládach”, meaning the “Embankment of Small Stones”. Whichever name you choose, it gives a wonderful reflection of the location of Portlaw. Due to the variety of its landscape and environment, the Portlaw area contains many features of wildlife interest.

PORTLAW WOODS

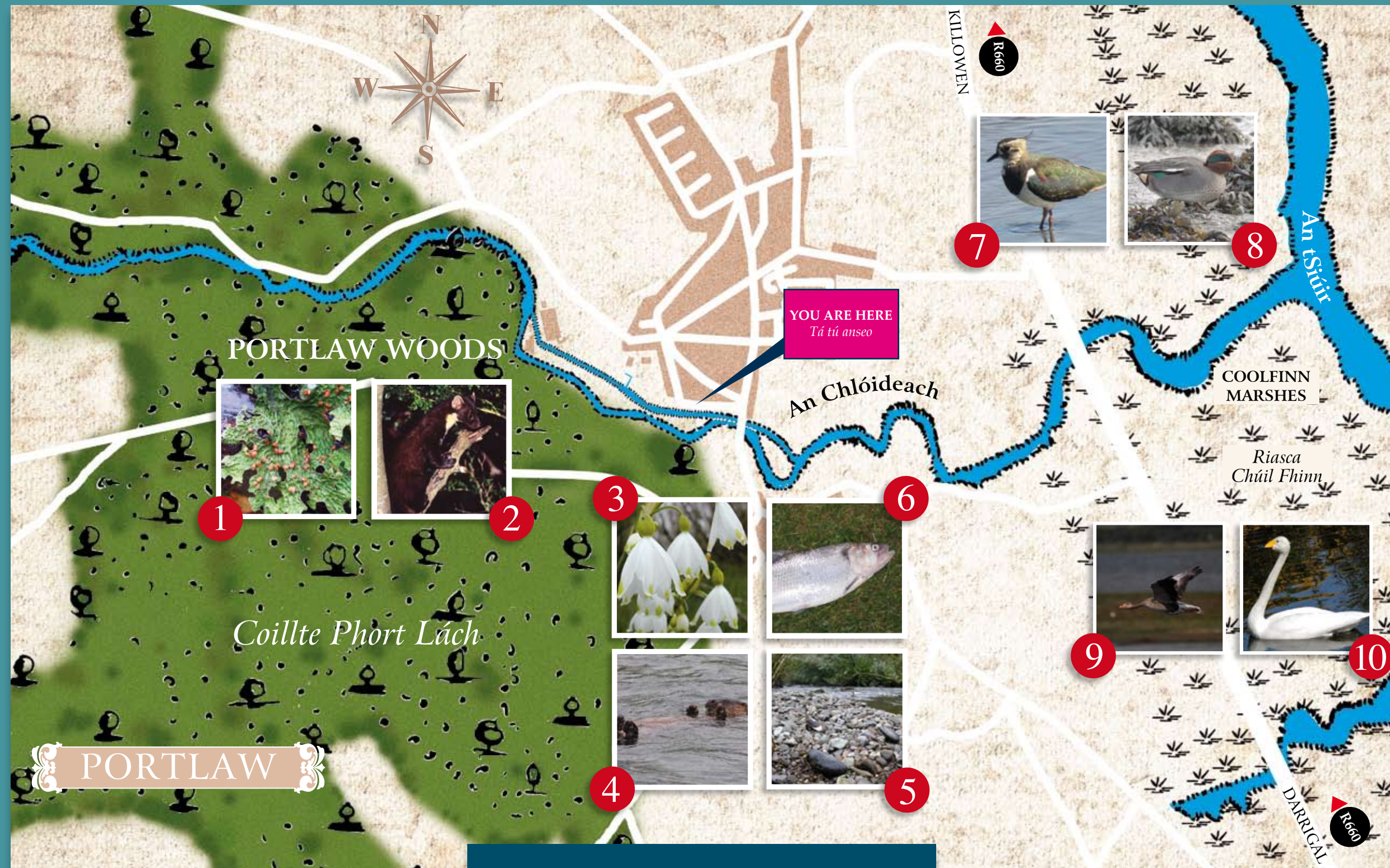
Portlaw Woods cover a large area of Curraghmore Estate to the west of the town and are a fine example of mature oak woodland, representing one of the larger remaining tracts of woodland in the country. This semi-natural woodland is composed primarily of Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), but also contains a range of other native and non-native tree species. It has a diverse ground flora with an exceptional abundance of moss species. This site is also noted for its rich lichen biodiversity. Of particular interest is the occurrence of Tree Lungwort, a lichen indicative of old woodlands that is very pollution sensitive. It is very rare in this region and this is its only known station in County Waterford.

Another rarity is the elusive Pine Marten, also known as the Tree Cat. This mammal is recorded in only a few counties in Ireland and is a protected species of wildlife. Curraghmore Estate contains the tallest tree in the county, which is a Sitka Spruce at 6.73m x 55m.

RIVER CLODIAGH

One of the most interesting species found in the River Clodiagh is the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, which occurs in the river between Clonea and Portlaw. Pearl Mussels require very high water quality, with clean river beds and waters with very low levels of nutrients. Freshwater Pearl Mussels are now considered an endangered species. Ireland is estimated to hold 46% of the EU Pearl Mussel population with approximately 120 rivers known to contain Freshwater Pearl Mussel and the species is highly protected.

Another protected species known to occur in the wider River Suir catchment is the Twaite Shad, which spends most of its life at sea, but spawns in estuarine waters and is recorded from waters around Carrick-on-Suir. The



Local Wildlife, Flora & Fauna

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Tree Lungwort
<i>Crotal Coille</i> | 6 Twaite Shad
<i>Sead Fhallacsach</i> |
| 2 Pine Marten
<i>Cat Crainn</i> | 7 Lapwing
<i>Pilibín</i> |
| 3 Summer Snowflake
<i>Plúirín Samhraidh</i> | 8 Teal
<i>Praslacha</i> |
| 4 Otter
<i>Madra Uisce</i> | 9 Greylag Goose
<i>Gé Ghlas</i> |
| 5 Freshwater Pearl Mussel
<i>Diúilicín Fionnuisce</i> | 10 Whooper Swan
<i>Eala Ghlórach</i> |

Find further information about Portlaw's heritage by visiting Portlaw Heritage Centre in the Square.

The information presented here relates to lands in private ownership. Description of these areas should not be regarded as either a recommendation or an endorsement by Waterford County Council to freely visit these lands without the prior knowledge and consent of the respective landowners.

Baineann an t-eolas atá tugtha anseo le roinnt tailte atá faoi úinéireacht phríobháideach. Ní cheart glacadh le tuairisc ar na limistéir seo mar mholadh nó mar fhorhnuiniú ó Chomhairle Contae Phort Láirge cuairt gan srianadh a thabhairt ar na tailte seo gan réamheolas nó gan cead na n-úinéirí ar leithligh.

an choillearnach leath-nádúrtha seo déanta suas den Dair Choiteann (*Quercus robur*) don chuid is mó, ach tá réimse de speiceas crann dúchasach agus neamh-dúchasach le fáil ann chomh maith. Tá flóra talún éagsúil ann freisin, le raidhse neamhghnácha de speiceas chaonaigh. Tá cáil ar an suíomh seo chomh maith do shaibhreas a fhlóra léicín. Is díol suime ar leith é an Crotal Coille, léicean atá le fáil thart ar shean-choilearnaigh agus atá an-mhothálach do thruailiú. Tá sé an-neamhchoitianta sa réigiún seo, agus is é seo an t-aon áit amháin ina bhfuil sé le fáil i gContae Phort Láirge, go bhfios dúinn.

Is rud annamh eile é an Cat Crainn seachantach. Níl taifead ar an ainmhí seo ach i roinnt bheag contaetha in Éirinn agus speiceas d'fhiadhúlra atá faoi chosaint is ea é. Tá an crann is airde sa chontae ar fáil in Eastát an Churraigh Mhóir, sé sin Sprús Síteach, a sheasann ag 6.73m x 55m.

AN CHLÓIDEACH

Tá an Diúilicín Péarla Fionnuisce ar cheann des na speicis is suimiúla atá sa Chlóideach. Tá taifid ar an diúilicín péarla sa Chlóideach ó thús na haoise seo caite agus tá siad le fáil san abhainn idir Chluain Fhia agus Port Lách. Teastaíonn cáilíocht uisce an-ard ón diúilicín péarla, le leaba abhann atá glan agus uiscí le leibhéil an-íseal de chothaitheigh. Meastar go bhfuil 46% de dhaoir an AE den Diúilicín Péarla in Éirinn, in thart ar 120 abhainn éagsúil, agus tá an speiceas faoi ard-chosain.

Speiceas eile atá faoi chosaint, agus atá le fáil in abhantrach níos leithne na Siúire, ná an Sead Fhallacsach, a chaitheann furmhór a cuid ama ar muir, ach a sceitheann in uiscí inbhearacha, agus a bhfuil taifead uirthi ó uiscí thimpeall Charraig na Siúire. Tá an ceantar seo cáilithe mar Limistéar Caomhantais Speisialta de bharr an dá speiceas seo a bheith ar fáil san abhantrach. Tá madraí uisce feicithe sa cheantar chomh maith.

I measc na bplandaí suimiúla atá le fáil ar fud bhruach na Clóidí tá an Plúirín Samhraidh, an Buachalán Corraigh agus an Sail Almóinní. Is féidir leat Oragán Fáin, Méirín Púca, Cluas Chaoín Riabhach agus Ialus Mór Bándearg a fháil ag an droichead.

RIASCA CHÚIL FHINN

Tá gnáthóg fhiadhúlra eile an-tábhachtach soir ó dheas ó Phort Lách – Riasca Chúil Fhinn, atá beartaithe le hainmniú mar Limistéar Oidhreachta Nádurtha. Tugann an ceantar seo tearmann d'úimhreacha tábhachtacha náisiúnta de Ghéanna Ghlasa, a chaitheann an geimhreadh ann, ag iníor na dtailte fhéaraigh thalmhaíochta. Speiceas eile a bhfuil taifead de líon suntasach díobh ná an Eala Ghlórach, an Praslacha, an Lacha Dhubh, an Fheadóg Bhuí, an Pilibín agus an Crotach.

Tá **Port Lách** lonnaithe ar an gClóideach, atá mar chraobh-abhainn d'Abhainn na Siúire. Tá beagáinín easaontais mar gheall ar bhunús an ainm. Deir cáipéis stairiúla áirithe gur Port Lách (Lághach nó cnoc) an t-ainm ceart, a chiallaíonn “the bank, or landing place of the hill”. Deir an Canónach de Paor ina leabhar ‘The Placenames of Decies’ gur “Port Chládach” atá air, a chiallaíonn “Embankment of Small Stones”. Pé acu ceann is cirte, tugann an t-ainm léargas an-dheas ar shuíomh na háite. Tá roinnt mhaith ghnéithe d'fhiadhúlra ar fáil sa cheantar seo de bharr éagsúlacht na ngnáthoga sa cheantar mórthimpeall.

COILLTE PHORT LÁCH

Clúdaíonn Coillte Phort Lách cuid mhaith d'Eastát an Churraigh Mhóir taobh thiar den mbaile agus is sampla iontach iad de choillearnach dharach fhásta, agus iad ar cheann de na sleachta choillte is mó atá fágtha sa tír. Tá